

NEWS

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HIGHLIGHTS OF HUNTSVILLE, AL **NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY JUNE 2000**

Workers in the Huntsville metropolitan area averaged \$16.60 per hour during June 2000, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin reported that white-collar workers averaged \$20.55 per hour and accounted for 50 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$14.46 per hour and represented 34 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$7.31 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 147 firms representing 72,400 workers in the Huntsville metropolitan area, which includes Limestone and Madison Counties in Alabama. Seventy-seven percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Huntsville metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for more than 50 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, aerospace engineers averaged \$31.06 per hour; licensed practical nurses, \$11.43; and bank tellers, \$8.78. Blue-collar occupations included construction laborers earning \$8.75 per hour, textile sewing machine operators at \$7.02, and hand packers and packagers at \$6.49. In the service occupations, cooks averaged \$8.85 per hour; nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, \$7.75; and janitors and cleaners, \$7.22.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Huntsville area averaged \$17.25 per hour and part-timers earned \$7.00. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$20.90 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$11.18. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$9.67 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$20.27.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an

occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgement, supervision received, and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Huntsville, AL National Compensation Survey June 2000 (Bulletin 3105-42). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Atlanta Information Office by calling 404-331-3415. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/comhome.htm>. Select survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Atlanta by dialing 404-331-3403 and requesting document 9470.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Atlanta Information Office at 404-331-3415 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,(1) all workers:(2) Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Huntsville, AL, June 2000

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$16.60	2.5	\$16.30	2.4	\$17.62	5.9
All excluding sales	16.89	2.6	16.64	2.6	17.67	5.9
White collar	20.55	3.1	20.61	3.5	20.43	6.4
White collar excluding sales	21.59	2.9	22.12	3.2	20.56	6.4
Professional specialty and technical	24.02	3.1	25.20	3.8	22.23	5.8
Professional specialty	26.86	2.7	29.14	2.6	23.90	5.4
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	29.52	3.4	29.60	3.4	—	—
Aerospace engineers	31.06	5.6	31.06	5.6	—	—
Electrical and electronic engineers	27.27	6.9	27.52	7.1	—	—
Engineers, n.e.c.	29.24	6.2	29.24	6.2	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	30.08	5.7	31.74	2.7	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	30.14	5.9	31.89	2.6	—	—
Natural scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	19.80	5.7	—	—	—	—
Registered nurses	20.04	6.2	—	—	—	—
Teachers, college and university	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	25.84	3.1	14.86	15.2	—	—
Elementary school teachers	26.45	1.1	—	—	—	—
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	16.26	17.9	20.49	1.8	—	—
Technical	15.09	6.2	15.47	7.7	14.11	9.4
Licensed practical nurses	11.43	2.3	—	—	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	9.67	11.7	—	—	—	—
Electrical and electronic technicians	14.23	11.6	14.11	12.1	—	—
Engineering technicians, n.e.c.	18.59	13.7	18.59	13.7	—	—
Drafters	18.62	12.2	18.62	12.2	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	27.72	4.6	26.86	5.2	32.46	5.0
Executives, administrators, and managers	34.30	4.1	34.46	5.4	33.91	4.9
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	35.71	5.7	35.62	5.9	—	—
Management related	21.30	5.7	21.36	5.9	—	—
Accountants and auditors	25.74	9.4	26.98	9.2	—	—
Management analysts	21.64	9.7	21.53	10.1	—	—
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	17.47	6.2	17.47	6.2	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	21.53	11.2	21.53	11.2	—	—
Sales	11.47	8.0	11.35	8.3	—	—
Supervisors, sales	15.74	6.6	15.74	6.6	—	—
Sales workers, other commodities	12.54	13.2	11.76	16.7	—	—
Cashiers	7.44	4.7	7.43	4.9	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.66	4.4	11.37	5.5	12.22	7.2
Secretaries	13.41	10.2	11.50	7.4	14.15	12.8
Receptionists	8.37	8.1	8.37	8.1	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	12.24	6.7	11.86	5.9	—	—
Production coordinators	15.55	17.8	—	—	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	10.81	11.6	10.81	11.6	—	—
General office clerks	9.15	5.9	8.97	7.0	—	—
Bank tellers	8.78	3.9	8.78	3.9	—	—
Administrative support, n.e.c.	16.41	16.7	16.41	16.7	—	—
Blue collar	14.46	4.0	14.48	2.4	14.26	5.4
Precision production, craft, and repair	14.78	5.7	14.57	6.6	16.20	6.8
Industrial machinery repairers	22.51	7.4	22.51	7.4	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	15.97	11.1	16.41	11.8	—	—
Supervisors, production	20.19	5.3	20.19	5.3	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	16.05	5.8	16.05	5.8	—	—
Punching and stamping press operators	11.66	6.0	11.66	6.0	—	—
Fabricating machine operators, n.e.c.	8.87	4.0	8.87	4.0	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,(1) all workers:(2) Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Huntsville, AL, June 2000 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Blue collar —Continued						
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors						
—Continued						
Textile sewing machine operators	\$7.02	3.7	\$7.02	3.7	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	17.92	8.3	17.92	8.3	—	—
Welders and cutters	18.02	23.1	18.02	23.1	—	—
Assemblers	15.90	7.4	15.90	7.4	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	12.86	17.3	12.86	17.3	—	—
Transportation and material moving	11.48	10.0	10.90	14.6	\$12.41	10.2
Truck drivers	12.65	7.3	12.17	11.1	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.18	5.2	9.11	5.4	—	—
Construction laborers	8.75	4.6	8.75	4.6	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	7.48	8.5	7.48	8.5	—	—
Machine feeders and offbearers	9.55	4.8	9.55	4.8	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	9.72	8.4	9.72	8.4	—	—
Hand packers and packagers	6.49	4.0	6.49	4.0	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	8.82	7.0	8.82	7.0	—	—
Service	7.31	5.2	6.28	6.0	9.50	4.9
Protective service	10.36	11.6	—	—	—	—
Food service	6.27	9.1	5.55	10.1	9.18	5.8
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	3.34	9.3	3.32	9.3	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	2.95	14.3	2.93	14.3	—	—
Other food service	7.75	6.1	7.14	6.4	9.21	5.8
Cooks	8.85	6.9	8.32	5.8	—	—
Kitchen workers, food preparation	8.18	6.6	—	—	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	6.23	2.1	6.23	2.2	—	—
Health service	7.79	3.0	7.86	5.3	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	7.75	2.9	7.79	5.3	—	—
Cleaning and building service	7.30	4.2	6.94	4.9	8.06	6.8
Maids and housemen	5.94	2.3	5.91	2.5	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	7.22	4.1	6.72	3.9	8.10	6.9
Personal service	—	—	—	—	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings(1) by occupational group,(2) National Compensation Survey, Huntsville, AL, June 2000

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$17.25	\$7.00	\$20.61	\$16.00	\$16.61	\$16.17
All excluding sales	17.45	7.05	20.65	16.29	16.90	11.05
White collar	21.15	8.58	17.65	20.61	20.57	19.04
White-collar excluding sales	21.89	10.37	17.97	21.67	21.59	—
Professional specialty and technical	24.24	12.65	—	24.12	24.02	—
Professional specialty	26.93	11.42	—	26.86	26.86	—
Technical	15.24	12.90	—	15.07	15.09	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	27.95	—	—	27.87	27.72	—
Sales	12.88	6.79	—	11.47	10.62	19.04
Administrative support, including clerical	11.84	8.32	—	11.27	11.66	—
Blue collar	14.76	6.96	20.90	11.18	14.48	11.52
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.13	—	22.15	12.65	14.78	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	16.07	—	21.32	10.65	16.05	—
Transportation and material moving	12.09	—	—	11.24	11.34	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.50	6.18	11.92	8.73	9.24	—
Service	7.72	5.54	—	7.30	7.30	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	2.5	6.9	1.7	2.9	2.4	16.5
All excluding sales	2.5	8.3	1.6	3.0	2.5	14.6
White collar	3.0	10.5	11.9	3.2	3.1	19.4
White-collar excluding sales	2.9	14.0	11.9	2.9	2.9	—
Professional specialty and technical	2.9	24.1	—	3.1	3.1	—
Professional specialty	2.7	9.4	—	2.7	2.7	—
Technical	5.7	28.2	—	6.5	6.2	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	4.6	—	—	4.7	4.6	—
Sales	8.1	6.4	—	8.1	8.0	19.4
Administrative support, including clerical	4.5	3.3	—	4.0	4.4	—
Blue collar	1.9	11.7	1.6	2.8	2.2	17.8
Precision production, craft, and repair	5.4	—	4.3	5.5	5.7	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5.8	—	1.1	3.1	5.8	—
Transportation and material moving	7.1	—	—	10.7	10.6	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	5.2	2.5	13.9	4.9	5.3	—
Service	6.8	5.3	—	5.2	5.2	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

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Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings⁽¹⁾ by occupational group,⁽²⁾ private industry, National Compensation Survey, Huntsville, AL, June 2000

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$16.30	\$9.67	\$17.57	\$14.52	\$20.27
All excluding sales	16.64	9.71	17.84	14.83	20.24
White collar	20.61	11.67	22.04	19.29	25.03
White-collar excluding sales	22.12	12.92	23.18	21.12	24.99
Professional specialty and technical	25.20	11.18	26.12	23.73	28.18
Professional specialty	29.14	—	29.43	28.60	29.98
Technical	15.47	10.55	16.48	14.94	19.28
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.86	27.90	26.78	27.56	26.26
Sales	11.35	9.40	12.41	11.75	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.37	9.62	11.87	10.64	13.42
Blue collar	14.48	11.09	14.91	10.80	16.98
Precision production, craft, and repair	14.57	14.75	14.55	15.03	14.38
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	16.05	8.46	16.51	10.26	18.99
Transportation and material moving	10.90	14.59	9.60	8.72	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.11	8.53	9.36	8.26	10.97
Service	6.28	5.79	6.63	6.61	—
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	2.4	7.1	2.7	4.4	2.9
All excluding sales	2.6	7.9	2.7	4.7	2.9
White collar	3.5	7.8	3.7	5.5	4.1
White-collar excluding sales	3.2	10.3	3.1	4.4	4.2
Professional specialty and technical	3.8	10.3	3.8	6.4	4.1
Professional specialty	2.6	—	2.5	3.6	3.4
Technical	7.7	11.5	8.3	11.5	9.0
Executive, administrative, and managerial	5.2	16.3	5.4	5.7	8.3
Sales	8.3	10.2	11.9	10.4	—
Administrative support, including clerical	5.5	7.0	6.4	4.9	11.4
Blue collar	2.4	7.3	2.6	3.8	3.3
Precision production, craft, and repair	6.6	7.1	7.4	4.5	9.8
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5.8	9.0	5.6	4.0	4.0
Transportation and material moving	14.6	8.7	16.0	13.6	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	5.4	7.2	6.8	4.4	12.0
Service	6.0	8.7	7.9	8.6	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

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